

VIRGINIA RECYCLING MARKETS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

June 14, 2007



11:00 AM

Hampton Roads Planning District
Chesapeake, VA

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Tom Smith, RMDC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M. and welcomed the members of the Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council and members of the public to the meeting. He thanked the representatives of the Hampton Roads Planning District for hosting the meeting and Mr. John Carlock, former member and past chairman of the Council, welcomed the group. Mr. Smith noted that two members had resigned, Mr. Bill Dennison and Diane Jones, and publicly recognized them for their years of service to the Council. He also welcomed the newest member of the group, Mr. Jimmy Sisson representing the recycling industry. Based on the attendance of the members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum. Those who were present for some or all of the meeting are noted below:

RMDC	Representing	Absent RMDC	
Philip Abraham,	Plastics Industry	Richard Lerner	Metal Industry
Michael Benedetto	Paper Industry	John Kline	Tires
Tom Smith-Chair	VACO	Sean Kumar	Public At Large
Georgiana Ball	VDGS	William Vehrs	VDBA
Michael Ward	Oil Industry		
Bernard Harris	Waste Industry		
Robert Broom	Composting Industry	Diane Jones	Rural PDC-resigned
Stephen Thompson	Aluminum	W.A. Dennison Jr.	VML- resigned
Chip Goyette	Urban PDC		
William Bailey	VDOT		
Eric Fidler	Electronics		
Jimmy Sisson *	Recycling		
Steve Coe	VDEQ		
Brian Vickers- (potential member)	Glass Industry		

* new member

Visitors	Representing
Christine McCoy	Virginia Recycling Association
Tim Lee	TFC Recycling

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Chair asked the committee members to review the meeting agenda. No objections were raised so the proposed agenda was accepted. Minutes from the March 27 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve those minutes was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Harris, and approved by the Council.

3. Old Business

Legislative/Regulatory Update

Mr. Coe was asked by the Chair to comment on regulatory activity. He noted that the regulations that implement the 15% recycling rate for certain localities are in the process of being approved. While there is still a 30 day comment period, it appears that the regulations will be finalized soon. On the legislative front, Mr. Vickers described federal legislation that calls for a 15% accelerated depreciation allowance for recycling machinery and equipment. Mr. Smith suggested that a letter might come from the Council to the Governor of Virginia in support of such legislation. Mr. Abraham suggested that such a letter should also be forwarded to the Virginia Liaison Office to urge support of the federal bill. Mr. Broom inquired as to whether the credit is available to organics recycling and other recycling commodities.

On another legislative issue, Ms. Ball noted that HB 2946 directs a review of computer disposal issues and a review of practices for disposal of state owned computers is underway. At this point a general discussion of the legislature took place and Mr. Abraham noted that the political landscape may be quite different especially in the Virginia Senate based on the results of some primaries just days before.

Mr. Smith reported that he had attended the most recent Waste Management Board meeting in Richmond and answered questions from the Board on waste diversion and waste reduction. He urged other members who reside in the Richmond area to attend future meetings of that group if possible.

Update on Recycling Study

Chairman Smith reported that he had called the JLARC Director, Phil Leone, who indicated that the JLARC staff is still focused on the brain injury treatment study. After that study is completed this fall, it is expected that JLARC will focus more on the recycling study directed by the legislation that passed earlier this year. Some discussion took place on a draft survey the Local Government Subcommittee is developing to get input on recycling needs and concerns that will seek information from local governments, processors, haulers and recycling coordinators. Mr. Goyette hopes the Local Government subcommittee can meet in the next month or so to consider how best to implement the survey. Mr. Abraham suggested that the survey should be shared with JLARC.

Mr. Smith inquired about the study on recycling that was anticipated by graduate students from James Madison University. Mr. Coe explained that it appeared the study may not be thorough enough or provide the spreadsheets and documentation the Council would need.

4. New Business

DEQ 2006 Recycling Report update

Mr. Coe presented some preliminary numbers from the report for 2006. 72 reports had been filed thus far (74 reports were filed altogether in 2005). 50 of the reports were complete and 22 needed additional information. Mr. Coe expects all to be in by the end of July. The reporting process is a bit more complicated and the report figures will need to be clarified as well since this is the first year that the 15% rate is acceptable in some localities. Mr. Coe indicated only 5 localities have reported not achieving the 15% rate. In response to some questions, Mr. Coe indicated that no “backsliding” appears to be evident in the reporting. That is, no localities appeared to be lessening their recycling efforts due to the flexibility that now exists in law for some to meet a lower rate.

E-Cycling and disposal of Electronic Materials-JCOTS advisory committee

Ms. Ball and Mr. Coe reviewed the deliberations of this group which is looking at what other states are doing with recycled electronics and surplus computers. A report and recommendations are to be presented to the General Assembly for 2008. The Chair and members discussed the need to make contacts with the staff support for this group.

Tax Credit legislation-subcommittee

Some discussion took place regarding the potential to develop tax credit legislation that might go beyond the current Virginia credit for stationary equipment. Mr. Abraham noted the political difficulty in getting support for state tax credits, especially with the current state budget forecasts indicating shortfalls. Enabling language to allow localities to offer such a credit was mentioned as a possibility to consider. Also discussed was the possibility of a tax credit for the designation of space in buildings for recycled goods storage and separation. Mr. Benedetto, Mr. Abraham and Ms. Ball were designated to the work of this committee and Mr. Coe was asked to look for references in current Virginia law for related tax credits.

5. Wrap-up and future meetings

Future meetings of the Council are scheduled for **September 13** and **December 6 at the Richmond Regional VDEQ offices**. Mr. Smith requested that at these next meetings there might be presentations on organics, food waste, and glass markets.

6. Site-tour briefing

Mr. Benedetto presented a video briefing during lunch for members describing the recycling machinery and processes at his company, TFC Recycling. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 and afterwards, members joined Mr. Benedetto for a tour of the facility.